Jewellery park at Karwar

4986. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to establish jewellery parks at various locations, including Karwar in Karnataka, in Joint or Private Sector, to facilitate export of gold and jewellery production and to help the gem and jewellery units, which are basically cottage industries, to come under organised sector; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the proposal is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposals for financial assistance to Gold Jewellery Park in Indore, Madhya Pradesh and Gem and Jewellery Park at Karwar in Karnataka were considered. An amount of Rs. 1.89 Crore was sanctioned under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme for Gold Jewellery Park in Indore. The proposal submitted by Government of Karnataka for estabishment of Gem and Jewellery Park at Karwar, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka was considered by the Government and found not viable.

Service charges on unregistered tobacco growers

4987. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are imposing a differential penalty of Rs. 2.00 per kg. plus 20 per cent service charges in case of unregistered growers in respect of excess tobacco crop;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount of penalty collected thus from each of the State/Union Territory during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has conveyed the feelings of its tobacco growers that the penalty is on the higher side and has requested for relaxation of the rate of penalty and service charges; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Government had imposed a penalty of Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 15% service charges on the unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced by the unregistered growers of Karnataka in the 2001 crop season. The penalty imposed on the

excess tobacco produced by the registered growers was Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 5% service charges. This marked an increase from the penalty imposed of Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 5% service charges levied on the unauthorised tobacco produced both by the unregistered as well as the registered growers of Karnataka since 1998-99. Similarly, the penalty imposed on the unauthorised FCV tobacco produced by the growers of Andhra Pradesh from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 was Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 5% service charges. Subsequently, for the 2001-2002 season, the tobacco Board allowed only Minimum Support Price for the unauthorised FCV tobacco. The details of the penalty collected over the past four years is as follows:

Year	Andhra Pradesh (Rs.)	Karnataka (Rs.)
1998-1999	12,59,37,932	5,37,54,012
1999-2000	11,05,89,394	5,01,32,895
2000-2001	5,93,08,121.40*	7,72,73,460
2001-2002	Auctions in progress	13,26,32,395

*This amount has been kept in a separate account since the matter is *subjudice*.

(c) and (d) The Government of Karnataka had requested that the penalty be reduced in the interest of the growers. Accordingly, Government of India took the decision to reduce the penalty from Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 20% service charges to Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 15% service charges on the unauthorised FCV tobacco produced by the unregistered growers. The penalty on the excess crop produced by the registered growers remained unchanged at Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 5% service charges.

Impact of removal of QRs on export-import

4988. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the influence of removal of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has increased the overall efficiency of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Import restrictions are being removed as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions